

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. B. No. **1480**

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is observed that there is a deficiency in the dissemination of information regarding health care information to women. Many women are not conscious of the healthcare precautions that should be taken during pregnancy. This may be the reason why the percentage of abnormal and handicapped babies is constantly increasing.

The Constitution, Article II, Section 15 provides that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them," and under the Constitution, Article II, Section 12, the State is also mandated to equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. Towards this end, the following bill seeks to eradicate whatever barriers may exist that hamper access of the people and reliable reproductive health care information, including those pertaining to family planning and adoption services.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1975 FEB 26 11 47

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**AN ACT
TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO INFORMATION
ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act may be cited as the "Women's Right to Know Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Towards this end, the State shall provide relevant and reliable reproductive health care information to women.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the term —

(1) "Governmental authority" means any authority of any branch, instrumentality, agency of the National Government or any local government unit.

SECTION 4. *Reproductive Health Care Information.* - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no government authority shall in or through any program or activity, administered or assisted by such authority, that provides health care services or information, limit the right of any person to provide, or the of any person to receive, non-fraudulent information about the availability of reproductive health care services, including family planning, prenatal care, and adoption services.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rules or regulations or part thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

FN: 671